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# RECENT LITERATURE

## NOTES AND ABSTRACTS

**The Regulation of Prostitution in Europe.**—Europe has changed almost completely from a policy of regulation to so-called abolition with regard to prostitution. Neither public health nor public order has been promoted by regulation, as only one prostitute in ten is registered for regulation. More rigid registration simply converts the temporary prostitute into the permanent professional—precisely what society does not want to do—and street-walking and venereal diseases are still notorious in “regulated” cities. By making itself responsible for the safety of promiscuous intercourse through medical inspection, the state incidentally incites to prostitution, and at the same time it is well established that medical inspection in European cities is utterly inadequate. The alternative policy, abolition, now generally adopted, does not claim to do away with prostitution. It does, however, refuse it recognition as a legitimate trade and suppresses it as far as possible. American cities need to discriminate carefully in quoting European precedents.—Abraham Flexner, *Social Hygiene*, December, 1914. B. W. B.

**Marriage, Sterilization, and Commitment Laws.**—A growing sentiment against the marriage of persons tainted with insanity, epilepsy, and venereal diseases has led to restrictive marriage laws in thirty of the United States and in several countries of Northern Europe. Twenty-two of these affect only insane; Ohio nominally includes drunkards in its statute; Indiana and California have secured the most successful enforcement. Sterilization is practiced with success on the insane and should be extended to the feeble-minded. The weakness of marriage laws at present is largely due to procreation without marriage and to the ease of evading a statute in another state.—J. S. Smith, *Journal of Criminal Law*, September, 1914. B. W. B.

**Can the Law Protect Matrimony from Disease?**—Laws requiring only the applicant's own statement offer no safeguard of public health. Even the physician's guaranty has been questioned and in Washington it has been abolished. Such laws as that of Wisconsin fail to provide a fee adequate for careful laboratory tests. We are forced then to the Wasserman test for protection. But even the Wasserman test may fail to disclose the presence of disease in some dangerous cases; and in other cases, not dangerous because non-transmissible, the Wasserman reaction is positive. Laws requiring such examinations may be helpful in stimulating social hygiene but a little wit and medical knowledge readily deceive the law.—Edward L. Keyes, *Social Hygiene*, December, 1914. B. W. B.

**The Conditions of State Punishment.**—Regulation of social conduct may be effected by rewards or punishment or both. Punishment, the more common form of regulation, is justified by its deterrence of the individual wrongdoer and of other potential wrongdoers. No man is punished by the law of England unless such punishment is deemed capable of operating on his mind, and the minds of other potential wrongdoers. Judged by this standard of prevention, the entire punitive system of England is reasonably effective, with two notable exceptions. First, the privately managed reform schools, largely supported by the state, are poorly classified, poorly disciplined, and, judged by the criminal records of their “graduates,” are practically schools for crime. Second, “preventive detention” of habitual criminals under the act of 1908 has been so badly administered as to place a premium on recidivism. Hardened criminals are comfortably housed and pampered in contrast with the much more severe punishment of less dangerous and anti-social offenders.—E. Bowen-Rowlands, *Quarterly Review*, October, 1914. B. W. B.

**The Work of Rural Organization.**—To stop undesirable migration from country to city, country life must be made as profitable and attractive as city life. Mere insistence or more intensive cultivation ignores the fact that this is justified only when prices for farm products are high. Low prices coupled with high cost of farm supplies and poor credit facilities force the poorer acres out of cultivation and the poorer farmers out of business. The comparative disadvantage of the small farmer in bargaining, his dependence on the middleman, the increasing need of capital in working poor land, danger from pests, problems of sanitation, absentee landlordism, all call for greater rural organization. On the other hand, immense numbers, diversity of interest, physical distances, and lack of communication, and the proverbial individualism and conservatism of the farming group, make organization a difficult problem. The most pressing need is for rural credit facilities.—T. N. Carver, *Journal of Political Economy*, November, 1914. B. W. B.

**Unfair Competition.**—In a study of certain practices and their relation to the trust problem in the United States, discriminations in the form of rebates and preferential contracts may first be considered. One of the most common methods of securing exclusive selling is by the use of the rebate, rendering powerless the productive efficiency which might have enabled marginal concerns to compete. Another practice, dating from more than two decades ago, is the acquisition of control of machinery and goods used in the manufacturing process. By manipulation, also, as in loans from trusts as undisclosed principals, potential competitors are suppressed. In order to prevent shipments directly from the manufacturer to the consumer, both wholesale and retail trade organizations published (1) trade lists of wholesalers and retailers regarded by the trade as legitimate customers, and (2) recommended lists from which the names of offending concerns are removed. The only purpose that espionage and the use of detectives can serve is to be used as a function of one or another of the unfair practices. The use of coercion, threats, and intimidation lies in preventing potential competition from becoming actual. The fundamental question to be considered in solving the trust problem is the interest of the consuming public. Therefore the units having the highest productive efficiency must be preserved, whether this means competition or combination. If the only competition tolerated were based upon productive and selling efficiency, it would show a greatly increased effectiveness over the present competition hampered by unfair practices.—William S. Stevens, *Political Science Quarterly*, September, 1914. A. D.

**Service Income and Property Income.**—The individual whose effort creates values for which society pays receives service income; the individual who secures a return because of his property ownership receives a property income. The task of compiling income facts cannot be successfully completed until the government takes it in hand. The most highly organized of the transportation agencies, the railroad, gives the most complete information regarding property and service income. These figures, checked by the reports of the Interstate Commerce Commission, show that in 1911 the owners of railroad property were receiving more than one-half as much as the people who do the work of the railroads. The fragmentary data concerning municipal utilities shows, in the United States Census for 1912, that the ratio between service and property income is ten to seven. The study of manufacture, made in connection with the Twelfth Census, gives one-fifth of the gross value created in manufacture, as the amount paid in wages and salaries, while a considerably less proportion takes the form of property income. The *Report on Mines and Quarries* for 1902 fixes the ratio between total value produced and service income as two to one, and between total value and property income as nine to one. Today, in business accounts, the words "compensation," "dividends," "interest," and "surplus" are taking the place of "rent," "wages" and "profits." *Compensation* is service income; *dividends* and *interest* are property income; *surplus* is undistributed income. The vital distinction between incomes from services and incomes from property must be considered in income issues.—Scott Nearing, *American Statistical Association*, September, 1914. A. D.

**Some Fundamental Ideas of Chinese Culture.**—The theory of perfect isolation of ancient Chinese culture can no longer be upheld. The conviction is gaining ground

that Chinese culture, in its material and economic foundation, has a common root with our own. The present Chinese territory is largely composed of two distinct culture-areas—a northern one, decidedly Chinese; and a southern one, originally non-Chinese, but later assimilated to Chinese rule. Present-day China is a political, not a national or ethnical unit. The secret of her rapid progress lies chiefly in the sound development of all social and civic virtues, finally culminating in the political and ethical system brought forth by Confucius. The same family organization, based on the religious institution of ancestral worship, accounts for the racial and national continuity of the Chinese. Next to the Greeks, they have furnished the most extensive contributions to our scientific knowledge. The completeness of their traditions laid down in their twenty-four national annals may be called one of the wonders of the world. With the idea that it is the individual national State only which has a right of existence under modern conditions, the renaissance of the nation has taken place, and will doubtless result in the reshaping of a new national culture.—Berthold Laufer, *Journal of Race Development*, October, 1914. A. D.

**Child Labor and Delinquency.**—"Working children, because they are working rather than school children, are far more likely to go wrong, than those who can enjoy a childhood unburdened by adult responsibility." The *Federal Report on Juvenile Delinquency and Employment* makes three contributions in this connection. The first table shows that the ratio of working delinquents is very much larger than that of the non-working. A second tabulation brings out the fact that the non-workers are responsible for about one-third, the workers for nearly two-thirds, of the total offenses. From a third classification of delinquents into recidivists and first offenders, it appears that the repeaters constitute 52.4 per cent of the delinquent working children, and only 36.4 per cent of the non-working children. Comparative tables as to type of home prove that the working child, more frequently than the non-working child, goes wrong even where home surroundings are favorable. In general, the occupations producing the greatest number of delinquents are those in which the child works largely without supervision. Since working children furnish far more than their proportionate share to juvenile delinquency, which is not limited to any one offense, and since it cannot be accounted for by home environment, the conclusion seems inevitable that the fact of being at work constitutes the important element in the problem.—Fred S. Hall, *Child Labor Bulletin*, November, 1914. A. D.

**Phenomena of Inheritance.**—There are general resemblances but particular differences between parents and offspring. Whenever the differential cause of a character is a germinal one, the character is inherited; whenever this differential cause is environmental, the character is not inherited. Hereditary resemblances are noticeable in the transmission of racial characteristics. Both the physiological and psychological peculiarities of many individuals are also known to be inherited. There are, however, many limitations to the general rule that children resemble their parents. Sometimes these differences are due to new combinations of ancestral characters; sometimes they are actually new characters not present, so far as known, in any of the ancestors, though even such new characters must arise from new combinations of the elements of old characters. Francis Galton, in his statistical study, has established the law of ancestral inheritance, which gives the average contribution of each ancestor, and the law of filial regression, showing the tendency to mediocrity. Mendel's experimental studies have established: (1) the principle of unit characters; (2) the principle of dominance, by which it is shown that contrasting unit characters in parents are not blended in the offspring, but one appears dominant, while the other is recessive; (3) the principle of segregation, showing that every individual germ cell is "pure" with respect to any given unit character.—Edwin G. Conklin, *Popular Science Monthly*, October, 1914. A. D.

**Feminism and Polygamy.**—"The true goal of the feminist movement is polygamy: legalized, regulated by the state; respectable, and moral." The evils resulting from a surplus of females under monogamy are prostitution, and a vast army of virtuous but unhappy, futile-lived women. From the latter arises the demand that is struggling for a voice in feminism. "The demands of the feminists," in the words of their spokesman, W. L. George, "are for the furthering of the interests of women, social, political,

mental, economic, and physical." These can be reduced to the last—"the physical"—by which can only be meant a readjustment of sexual relations, both as to rights and as to privileges. Every normal woman desires a wholesome sexual life, the chance to become a mother, and the right to a full freedom of choice. These desires can be met only by polygamy, for in no other way can the legitimate demands of the women be satisfied with safety to themselves and to their children. The sentimental objection to polygamy is no more than an acquired habit of mind. The economic objection would soon disappear, for the second wife would cost no more than the present cost of the prostitute, and the unmarried female relative. That state of balance wherein "sex privileges" will vanish, and women shall have the freedom of choice they ask, can come only by re-establishing polygamy.—Henry Walker, *Forum*, December, 1914.

A. D.

**Influence of the War on Employment.**—The harmful effect of the war on British trade has been to destroy it entirely with enemy countries, seriously to interrupt it with friendly belligerent countries whose normal economic life has been completely upset, and to curtail it with neutral states because of the risks of transport and the consequent increase in cost of freight and insurance. On the other hand, there has been an immense increase in demand for labor in those trades engaged in filling government contracts, and certain other industries have been stimulated by home demand for goods previously supplied from abroad. The percentage of men who were employed last July but who were not employed last October, was 10.7; the percentage known to have joined the forces is 10.6. This indicates that practically the entire contraction of male labor is accounted for by recruiting. The percentage of women employed in July and unemployed in September, was 8.4; this was reduced to 6.2 in October and is still decreasing—an encouraging tendency. About 17.3 per cent of the men, and 26 per cent of the women employed in October were on part-time work, in a majority of cases being on three-quarter time or greater. Although we may expect a betterment of conditions as a result of acquiring a firmer economic equilibrium as time goes on, there is not likely to be any great change for better or worse during the period of the war. The real crisis will come when the more than a million men return from the war and require to be reabsorbed into Britain's industrial life.—H. D. Henderson, *Economic Journal*, December, 1914.

E. E. E.

**Sport and Crime.**—Sport in itself is a good thing, but sport, as all things else, has its abuses. Races and concourses, with their assembled multitudes of spectators, afford opportunities for professional criminals to operate swindling games and other criminal devices. Again, overindulgence in sport, by its very development of reservoirs of surplus energy, tempts its devotees to direct that super-energy toward harmful activities. But possibly the gravest criticism in this connection is with respect to its influence upon indirect participants. Young men are sometimes tempted to lying and theft to obtain money for indulgence of their sportive tastes. The keenness and the uncertainty of contests encourage gambling, contests which in some cases would not live without the gambling feature. Boxing matches, especially, are highly demoralizing *per se*, as presenting a brutal and sanguinary spectacle to the beholders, who cannot help having their sensibilities hardened by the sight. Professional sportsmen themselves rarely indulge in any form of remunerative toil aside from their sport. In this they are encouraged by the notoriety and praise accorded them by the press, publicity far in excess of that given to men who distinguish themselves in worthier activities. Sexual temptations follow closely in the train of such unwholesome popularity.—R. A. Reiss, "Le Sport et le crime," *Archives d'anthropologie criminelle*, July 15, 1914.

E. E. E.

**Insanity and Divorce.**—Every precaution should be taken to avoid matrimony where either of the contracting parties presents any tendency indicative of a likelihood of mental disorder, both for the sake of the individuals themselves, and for that of the potential offspring who might be similarly tainted. But what of those cases where the mental weakness appears subsequent to marriage? It would be unjust to allow divorce on this ground where any possibility appears of a return to normal mind; but 80-90 per cent of mental diseases are incurable. Where such is found to be the case after expert medical examination properly conducted over a sufficient period of time,

divorce should be permitted. Divorce would give the normal partner an opportunity of giving the children already born another normal parent; it would prevent the birth of others, who might prove mental defectives. The sentimental attitude toward marriage is giving way in this modern day, and the social importance of the institution becoming realized more and more fully. It is this modern viewpoint that is making it evident that when one of the contracting parties is no longer capable of appreciating the importance of the relation, justice demands that the other shall be protected. Through their protection will come preservation of society and the race.—Alfred Gordon, *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*, November, 1914.

E. E. E.

**The Necessity for a Public Defender.**—To quote from a recent speech of former President Taft: "Of all the questions before the American people I regard no one as more important than this, to wit, *the improvement of the administration of justice*. We must make it so that the poor man will have as nearly as possible an opportunity of litigating as the rich man, *and under present conditions, ashamed as we may be of it, this is not the fact*." At present the district attorney is expected by the state to function as a public prosecutor, and as such he must be partisan, to the prejudice of the indigent defendant. The poor person is frequently at a disadvantage when represented by unpaid, incompetent, indifferent, unscrupulous assigned counsel who is no match for the skilled district attorney. Miscarriage of justice is not an infrequent outcome. The remedy—vital, practical, economical—is the establishment of the office of a public defender, the object of which shall be to furnish as high a quality of legal skill in behalf of the defendant as that which is now directed against him by a state's prosecutor. Such an office has been proved an unqualified success in Los Angeles. The agitation in its favor in New York, Chicago, Boston, and other large communities indicates that the movement is becoming national.—Mayer C. Goldman, *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*, January, 1915.

E. E. E.

**The Religion, Superstitions, Magic, and Sorcery of the Araucanians.**—The Araucanians are a tribe of Indians inhabiting the meridional region of Chile. Their modern religious conceptions are a fusion of Christian customs and primitive superstitions. They have but an obscure notion of spiritual things, and are highly materialistic in their religious beliefs. They have no temples, and no priestcraft in the religious sense of the word; they do not recognize the existence of a superior being of definite attributes. Their religion, such as it is, exerts but a weak influence over their morals. They believe in a future life, but the idea of hell has no place in their theology, although they regard the poor, and women of ill repute, as condemned in the future life to a region of perpetual cold. As is customary with primitive peoples, they are extremely superstitious. Many of their beliefs have to do with animals: they imagine, for example, that a man will become endowed with the characteristics of any beast whose pelt he will carry—the courage of the puma, the subtlety of the fox, the invisibility of the serpent being imparted in this way. Their tribal wonder-workers are divided into three classes: (1) the *huccunuye*, or sorcerers, who dwell in mountain caverns and are responsible for rites, ceremonies, sacrifices, and religious observances; (2) the *dungune*, or soothsayers, who serve in a capacity similar to that of the Roman *augurs*, and who exert a considerable influence on Indian society; and (3) the *machi*, or "medicine men," who combine their very slight knowledge of medicine with the functions of exorcisers of spirits. The modern Araucanians give evidence of having descended from an ancestry of animal-worshippers.—M. J. Nippgen, "La Religion, les superstitions, la magie et la sorcellerie des Araucaniens," *L'Ethnographie*, July 15, 1914.

E. E. E.

**Concerning Sexual Instruction of the Youth, Especially at School.**—How to explain the phenomena of sex to the youth of the nation is acknowledged to be one of the most serious problems of today. Almost every child who has attained the age of seventeen or eighteen has come to sexual knowledge through improper channels of information which have affected him injuriously. The problem now before us is: How should this be taught? There is one way proposed by the educationist, viz., that it should be presented progressively, from the fertilization of plants first, then as

it appears in the realms of the lower animals, and finally in its manifestations in the human race. However, a difficulty lies here in the fact that adults themselves do not agree as to what point of view they shall take in the matter. This is because the question has a moral as well as a physiological side. What seems moral to one because it is natural, seems immoral to another because of the unnatural uses to which sex functions may be put. The sexual process is not in itself immoral—it is one necessary for human existence; but by abuse it may become immoral. Possibly we may best carry this to the children in our schools by likening it to the alcohol question. Here the harmful effects of abusive use are easily apparent. Perhaps we may establish a similar connection in the question of sex.—S. von Peters, "Über sexuelle Belehrung der Jugend, besonders in der Schule," *Zeitschrift für Sexualwissenschaft*, August and September, 1914. K. K.

**The Extent of Child Labor Officially Measured.**—The Occupation's volume of the Thirteenth Census indicates that, of the total number of children ten to fifteen years of age in the United States, more than one in six (1,990,225), were at work in 1910. Although this number exceeds by more than 100,000 the corresponding returns given for 1900, still it should be noted that the increase is due entirely to the vast number employed as agricultural laborers. The number of children at work in other industries is a "little less than half that given in the Census for 1900." This is ample proof that the National Child Labor Committee has not labored in vain. Agricultural employment has a more pernicious effect upon children than is generally supposed. Every summer thousands of children are at work in the berry and vegetable fields of the various states. They return in the autumn to the schools in a "deplorable condition, morally, physically, and intellectually, due to improper food, poor housing, and want of supervision." Among some of the astonishing features of the value is the report that "355 little boys, ten to thirteen years of age, were at work as laborers on steam railroads," and nineteen boys of the same age were employed as messengers in the offices of the federal government. The report also reveals a striking relation between child labor and illiteracy. Mississippi has 47.8 per cent of her children at work and 22.5 per cent of her total population are illiterate, while Massachusetts has 8 per cent of her children at work and 5.2 per cent of illiterates.—Edward N. Clapper, Ph.D., *Child Labor Bulletin*, November, 1914. R. McK.

**Larger Aspects of the Woman's Movement.**—The present world-wide woman's movement is the result of certain evolutionary trends which are international in their manifestations. First, the growth of self-government throughout the world has taken place *pari passu* with the expansion of human interests. New classes invariably strive for the franchise whenever their interests become an object of governmental control. The "humanitarian activities" are primarily woman's interests. Of these, modern governments have deprived her by putting them under state control. Therefore in seeking the vote, woman is merely endeavoring to retain control over her traditional interests. Secondly, the movement is partially the result of the modern change in the conception of politics. The old ideas of political action fail to meet the demands made by modern social conditions. Statesmen require the assistance of women "to translate the new social sympathy into political action." Thirdly, the feminist movement has been augmented by the revolutionary demands made by men in various parts of the world for the franchise. These demands, as a rule, have embodied the most progressive features of existing governments. Consequently we find in Russia, China, and Siam, where recent revolutions have taken place, certain classes of women enjoying political status.—Jane Addams, *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, November, 1914. R. McK.

**A Research on the Proportion of Mental Defectives among Delinquents.**—The large majority of statements heretofore issued by experimental workers, in regard to the proportion of mental defectives among delinquents, have been fundamentally misleading and opposed to the general opinion of thoughtful observers. Studies have as a rule been made on highly selective groups found in detention homes. The brighter delinquents are not to be found in reformatories. They either escape detention or are let out on probation. Moreover, the Binet tests have been used indiscriminately and examinations made under conditions adverse to the person studied.

Defective sight, physical ill-health, bad habits, and language deficiencies have been ignored as ostensible causes of mental dulness. In an endeavor to overcome these deficiencies as far as possible, the Psychopathic Institute of the Juvenile Court of Cook County, Illinois, made an investigation of 505 cases of delinquent children in the Detention Home. The children studied were as nearly representative of the general delinquent class as is possible to obtain. Tests were made individually, under normal conditions, and by the same examiner. They were repeated during several months. School and Binet tests were used with discretion. The results obtained by this investigation indicate the percentage of feeble-minded among delinquents to be less than 10 per cent and the normal in ability to exceed 90 per cent.—Augusta F. Bronner, *Journal of the American Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology*, November, 1914. R. McK.

**The German Sugar Industry and the Support of the People.**—Among the misfortunes due to the war must be included the injury to the German sugar industry, though the crop this year was double that of last. The manufacture of beet sugar, first begun in Germany, has steadily increased in importance, while more intensive cultivation has increased the supply of beets and has raised the value of the land. Duties have been laid which have kept up the price at home and have made it possible to sell German sugar cheaper in other countries than at home. When the war broke out, exportation was forbidden in order to embarrass the enemies of Germany, especially England, and also to insure her own supply. Although the price of sugar has risen, without suspension of the duty it would have risen even higher. Cheap sugar is important as food for the people, as it can be substituted for other foods and spices. After two months, export was allowed to neutrals, but in limited quantities lest England should buy from them. If the supply of beets is greater than the demand for them, they should be manufactured into food products, thus increasing the food supply and at the same time furnishing employment. It is to the interest of the sugar industry as well to increase home consumption. If the German sugar industry is to continue to prosper, a home market must be maintained, not only in the present war, but in time of peace.—Emanuel Wurm, "Die deutsche Zuckerindustrie und die Volksernährung," *Neue Zeit*, October 23, 1914. J. W. H.

**Records of Health and Sanitary Progress.**—Observations and analysis of the problems that confront a community may reveal relations of cause and effect which are of the greatest significance in community action for the common welfare. If records of births, deaths, and sickness were more carefully kept, the result would be a distinct gain for the community, for the following reasons: (1) "Vital statistics are the bookkeeping of the health movement. Whatever affects either births or deaths conditions the very existence of the population. That which causes sickness and disability conditions efficiency and happiness." (2) "Vital statistics show us where to look for bad health conditions and demonstrate the success or failure of a new health policy when adopted." (3) Vital statistics may be related to other social phenomena such as occupation, housing, and nationality. (4) "Vital statistics have a most important practical bearing upon the problems of widows' pensions and the minimum wage." If the causes of accidents and low wages are known, the community will be in a position to remedy them. (5) "Vital statistics make possible the wise and efficient administration of a health department." If properly collected and tabulated, and presented to the citizens, as well as to public officials, vital statistics might be much more effective than at present.—R. E. Chaddock, *American Statistical Association*, December, 1914. A. B. L.

**On Infanticide.**—A mother who kills her illegitimate child at, or immediately after, birth, is punished with not less than three years, or where there are extenuating circumstances, not less than two years in the penitentiary. This mild punishment of infanticide, in contrast to other murder, is due to a consideration of influences at work on the mother, such as shame, poverty, or mental disturbance. If the child is killed later than "at or immediately after birth," the deed is counted as murder and the punishment is more severe. That infanticide was not always regarded with leniency is shown in the old laws, which sentenced the murderess to be burned alive, drowned, or torn with red-hot tongs. This punishment was later changed to decapitation.



The criminal code of Bavaria was the first to abolish capital punishment for infanticide. In 1909, suggestions were made to make the minimum sentence six months, and the maximum fifteen years in prison. In 1911, 141 women were sentenced for infanticide. Of these, 68 per cent were between eighteen and twenty-five years old; 134 were single; 4 married; 3 widows or divorced; 80 were Catholics; 61 were Protestants; 7 of them had been punished before for various reasons; 6 once, and 1 three times. That the crime is most frequently found among the poorer classes is shown by the fact that only one was independent; 61 were engaged in agricultural labor; 40 in domestic service; 17 were industrial workers; 9 were shopgirls; and 5 had no particular occupation. The greatest number of infanticides is found in the principalities where the regulations are the least severe.—R. Bloch, "Über den Kindsmord," *Sexuale Probleme*, September, 1914. A. B. L.

**Socialism and the War.**—The Socialist party has always discussed means of preventing war, rather than the position it should take when war is in progress. Not being able to prevent this war, the question of the Socialists in each country becomes that of the victory or the defeat of their fatherland. There are several criteria by which they might determine their position. Bebel declared many times that the fatherland must be defended in case of attack. But it may be doubtful who the real aggressor is, when several powers come to a deadlock in their relations with each other, and chance or diplomacy determines who shall strike the first blow. There is another criterion: the interest of the proletariat. The application of this principle resulted in the alliance of the French Republic with the despotism of Russia against German imperialism, while Germany must defend its institutions against the republicans of France and the despotism of the Czar. Although Russia has made great progress, her victory would be a calamity for Germany. The best interest of the proletariat may admit of several interpretations, but one thing is clear: it is to the interest of a people, including the proletariat, to oppose the entrance of an enemy across its borders. Which of these criteria may have decided the conduct of the Socialists of the different countries is impossible to say. The application of the aggressor and the attacked is dangerous, for that may result in hate between the comrades of the opposing camps. The only true criterion is the necessity of saving the fatherland from the terrible effects of defeat. The interests of democracy and of the proletariat demand that no nation shall lose its integrity and independence, and therefore there is no question about the final position of the party, unless its members in the different countries will keep the stand they took at the beginning of the war. The articles of peace at the end of the war must naturally correspond with our point of view, and leave no cause for war in the future. K. Kantsky, "Die Sozialdemokratie im Kriege," *Neue Zeit*, October 2, 1914. A. B. L.

**Railway Accidents and "Safety First."**—Railway accidents have been subjects for discussion and just criticism ever since railway operations started. Most of them might be prevented if some thoughtfulness and care were exercised by the employees of the railroad, as well as by the general public. If more laws penalizing trespassing were made and enforced, there would not be so many people injured or killed walking on tracks or "flipping" on cars. A little more care on the part of persons crossing the tracks would materially decrease accidents at highway crossings. For the past few years the railroads have made a scientific study of accident prevention and they have turned to every phase of railroad construction, equipment, and operation. Safety methods are constantly studied and safety devices perfected. To reduce accidents resulting in the death or injury of employees, the movement known as "Safety First" was inaugurated about four years ago by the Northwestern Railroad. It seeks the co-operation and assistance of all employees and attempts to reach them all by the organization of committees in all branches of the service, as well as a central committee, which represents all subcommittees, and considers suggestions before turning them over to the company. An attempt has been made to interest the general public in the movement. There has been a marked reduction in accidents since its organization, and it has been imitated by seventy-six other railroads.—R. C. Richards, *Journal of Political Science*, January, 1915. A. B. L.

**The War and Invalid Insurance.**—The consequences of the law of necessity passed in August, which prevented all future functioning of the sick funds, were immediately felt in the decided increase of outcries from the beneficiaries. Raising the premium rate only slightly bettered the financial state, since so many contributors to the fund have gone to the war. The members at home are among the smallest contributors, owing to the low wages received, and war, unemployment, and increased doctors' fees have added so much to the expenditures that the available cash is barely enough to meet the running expenses. Those managing the funds can scarcely make up the deficit. The church has proposed that during the war the rights and duties of all participants shall cease, but since the state has made no such provision it would not be lawful to act on that principle nor on the suggestion to discriminate in favor of married members. The same privileges must be granted to all. The funds must be enlarged to recover the losses, nor must they be permitted to dwindle, for in this time of sacrifice so many are suffering and in need.—Eduard Gräf, "Der Krieg und die Krankenversicherung," *Neue Zeit*, November 6, 1914. M. G. B.

**The War and Employment Insurance.**—In times of war the matter of employment insurance needs adjustment to obviate insufficiency of funds. The situation has been partially relieved by August legislation restricting amounts paid out to the lowest rate permitted and raising contributions to the highest possible rate. In this way it has been possible to aid a greater number of the sick, crippled, and irregularly employed. As the funds are still insufficient, the law has provided for additions from other than the usual contributing organizations. The funds for the sick have been considerably decreased during the war, but the other branches of employment insurance also have suffered. Probably accident insurance has had relatively the fewest inroads, since in most factories young and old alike have gone to the war. The need of a practicable system of unemployment insurance has been demonstrated by the present war, since the system now in use has proved insufficient and insecure. The continuance of the war adds to the gravity of the problem. After its close more legislative power should be given the working people so that the solution of the insurance problem may be for their benefit.—Gustav Hoch, "Der Krieg und die Arbeitsversicherung," *Neue Zeit*, October 16, 1914. M. G. B.

**Socialism during the War.**—With the beginning of war, socialism became a conscious reality and its need was felt by all. Solidarity is a great necessity and socialism is merely an application of it in all departments. Socialistic regulation alone can lessen the scarcity caused by the war. The first week of the conflict proved that a modern industrial country can the more easily carry on a war if there are extensive communal possessions. Opening up the millions of acres of available forest land will help the indigent and needy in the families of those who have gone to war. The proposed schemes of cultivating certain tracts will provide work for many. High net profits on public utilities will influence economic movements after the war. Communal possessions have grown to be much more important in the last twenty years. Means of defense in the future will be based upon their earnings. Not all the socio-political arrangements made during the war will be permanent, but many will remain in force. Ideas of solidarity and socialism developed under necessities of war will help in the solution of problems arising after it is over.—Edmund Fischer, "Der Sozialismus während des Krieges," *Sozialistische Monatshefte*, October 14, 1914. M. G. B.

**Relief to the Wretched in France.**—M. Anatole Weber recently finished the publication of a remarkable work in four volumes. The author has two noteworthy characteristics: the logic of his mind—a little too much logic perhaps—and a close fidelity to statistics. In the two present volumes, *Assistance to the Poor in France*, he attempts to show the extent of wretchedness and points out the ingenious remedies by which societies try to overcome them. He considers variations of salaries, hours of labor, punishments, alcoholism, tobacco, tuberculosis, insufficient savings, and premature social laws. Assistance is always insufficient but one can say with the author that the charitable deeds carried out in the district of the Seine would have sufficed to conquer misery if the numerous groups of professionals had not worked to the

detriment of the honestly unfortunate. The author is a little radical in his conclusions. For public good he would advise obligatory assistance for all deserving needy. He devotes his last chapter to a study of private beneficence which is generally of a religious nature. He does not establish an essential distinction between the Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish charities, but observes more cohesion in the works of the Catholic charities. Mr. Weber appears to have exhausted the subject. He has thought of all the organs of private beneficence, assistance dictated by the spirit of politics, co-operative assistance, patronage, assistance by railroad and financial companies. The necessary conclusion from all this is that the means efficiently to relieve misery are not yet discovered. The inquiry is conscientious and well done.—Jules Arboux, "L'Assistance aux miséreux en France," *Revue de la prévoyance et de la mutualité*, September, 1914. E. B. R.

**Insurance in Favor of French Seamen.**—The exceptional risks to which seamen are exposed has caused exceptional solicitude in their favor. Registered seamen are admitted to the benefit of a fund for disabled seamen, managed as a state institution and supported, in major part, by the public treasury. This fund assures them a pension in old age. Seamen engaged in private navigation are admitted, in case of natural or accidental invalidity, to the benefit of a fund having for its object mutual assistance. This fund has no other normal resources than the support of those interested. The two funds show the general points of view upon which such insurance may be based. The first grants pensions to enrolled seamen, their widows and orphans, in amounts which vary in size according to the seaman's rank and term of service. The second fund furnishes somewhat similar protection. It is supported by the payment of a small percentage of the salary of the seaman, by a tax levied on the shipowners, or by special measures which do not amount to registry. The strength and life of the fund would seem to depend upon its receiving subsidies from the state or upon the adoption of a system of capitalization. The technical errors in the organizations appear more clearly in the fund for the protection of seamen by reason of the autonomy of this fund.—Maurice Bellom, "L'Assurance en faveur des marins française," *Revue de la prévoyance et de la mutualité*, September, 1914. E. B. R.

**The Obligatory Notification of Tubercular Cases.**—Tuberculosis is and has always been a social disease. It is not possible to give trustworthy statistics but its spread in Portuguese India has been truly alarming. When we study its geographical distribution we see that those provinces are least affected whose inhabitants lead a sedentary life and remain for the most part in the country. The non-Christian classes are least attainted, either because they remain more in the country or because their condition, on account of the lack of medical assistance, is less well known to us. Among the native soldiers, however, the disease spreads more rapidly than among their Christian fellows. Against an obligatory notice of the disease much argument both of sentiment and reason has been made. Also the French medical world has been opposed to it. But the Anglo-Indian people would not revolt against the measure, and despite the arguments to the contrary, compulsory notice of tubercular cases is a necessary sanitary measure. As such it is in force in Germany, Denmark, and other countries, and it is very desirable that such notice be made obligatory in India. It is also to be strongly recommended that governments, municipalities, and philanthropic associations encourage the anti-tuberculosis campaign.—Dr. Froilano de Mello, "La déclaration obligatoire de la tuberculose," *Revue d'hygiène*, July, 1914. E. B. R.

**The War and the Woman.**—The present war is a practical school of socialism. Under the pressure of necessity, many things that hitherto have appeared to the greater part of the world as improbable or impossible have suddenly become realities. When the state or municipality decrees that the private goods of an individual be seized, when the authorities determine the selling price, the maximum amount that an individual may consume, and requisition whatever military necessity may require, then even the most skeptical observer cannot help but see in this a realistic and practical course in socialism. In the future women will also be important factors in the socialistic movement. The many positions now open to women because of the war, that have hitherto been closed to them, means that their place in the professional as

well as industrial field is assured. The socialistic spirit requires from them the subordination of private as well as family interests to the interests of society as a whole. To the women, then, the war will furnish a new impulse to secure the full right of helping to determine the conditions of life in general.—Wally Zepler, "Der Krieg und die Frau," *Sozialistische Monatshefte*, November, 1914. H. A. J.

**The War and Socialism.**—It cannot be denied that the present war means a great defeat for the Social Democratic party. The power of the organized working classes was found to be even less than that of the Socialists themselves, in attempting to make an effective resistance against the nations' desire for war. One is tempted to seek, not only powerlessness, but also indifference, as lying back of the defeat. With the exception of Russia, from which we have no reliable statistics, there are in the warring nations between seven and eight million enfranchised Social Democrats, and this enormous class-conscious mass has not been able to accomplish anything. One thing the Social Democrats have learned in their struggle against war is never again to rely on the argument that preparation for war is the best guaranty of peace.—Edv. Bull, "Krigen og socialismen," *Samliden*, December, 1914. H. A. J.

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